

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 19 remain in this application. Claims 2, 7, 10, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 20 through 23 have been added.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the Jackson, Jr., Franco-Sion, Spletzer, Conrad Da'oud et al, and Biggs patents.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires:

a second one of said body members inwardly tapers from an upper edge to a lower edge such that said second body member is adapted for fitting a thigh of the user;

said plurality of pockets comprises a second pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members, a first one of said second pair of pockets being coupled proximate to the leading edge of the second one of said body members, a second one of said second pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members proximate to the trailing edge of the second one of said body members;

said plurality of pockets comprises a third pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members, *a first one and a second one of said third pair of pockets each extending from a location proximate to the leading edge to a location proximate the trailing edge of the second one of said body members*, the first one of said third pair of pockets being located on an opposite side of said second pair of pockets from the second one of said third pair of pockets

Similarly, claim 19 requires (emphasis added):

wherein said plurality of pockets includes a first pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members, a first one of said first pair of thigh pockets being coupled proximate to the leading edge of the first one of said body members, a second one of said first pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members proximate to the trailing edge of the first one of said body members;

wherein said plurality of pockets comprises a second pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members, *a first one and a second one of said second pair of thigh pockets each extending from a location proximate to the leading edge to a location proximate the trailing edge of the first one of said body members*, the first one of said second pair of thigh pockets being located on an opposite side of said first pair of thigh pockets from the second one of said second pair of thigh pockets

It is submitted that the art relied upon in the Office Action would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to these requirements of claims 1 and 19, as the pockets in the Jackson, Jr. patent are positioned in a manner that is contrary to these requirements of claim 1 and new claim 20.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claim 21 requires “wherein each one of said pockets of said plurality of pockets is spaced from all other said pockets of said plurality of pockets”, a relationship which is illustrated in Figures 1 through 4 and 8 through 9 of the drawings, and which is submitted to facilitate the flexibility of the body members are the weights in adjacent pockets are less likely to contact and thus interfere with each other, particularly in the chest

and back areas of the user. It is submitted that the art relied upon in the rejections, and particularly the patent to Jackson, Jr., would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to this relationship of the claimed invention.

New claim 22 requires, in part, "each of said support straps being *positioned over at least two of said pockets such that said support straps circumscribe said at least two pockets*, a first of said support straps being positioned toward said upper edge of the associated one of said body members, a second of said support straps being positioned toward said lower edge of the associated one of said body members" (emphasis added). This relationship, shown in Figure 3 of the drawings of the application, is submitted to provide a more secure hold on the weights in the pockets to the body part. It is submitted that this relationship is completely foreign to the cited art, particularly the Jackson patent.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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